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■ PELHAM CARES

Christmas hampers bring joy to families

SARAH FERGOUSON
PelhamNEWS Staff

For many people, Christmas brings joy, laughter and memories that last for a lifetime.

But for families on a tight budget, it can be a struggle to afford all of those trimmings on the table and the presents under the tree.

That's why programs such as the Christmas Hamper program offered through Pelham Cares is so important. Betty Brown, coordinator of client services said:

Each year, Pelham Cares distributes hampers with food and other items to make the holiday season extra special.

see HAMPERS | page 2



ALLAN BENNER Staff Photo
Linda Roach, left, and Joan Mosier push shopping carts filled with non-perishable food donations from the Sobeyes in Fonthill to Pelham Cares.



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upfront

■ **GANGNAM STYLE:** Students use South Korean's song

Parody offers school a chance at \$20,000

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Four Grade 12 students from E.L. Crossley Secondary School need the community to vote for their 'Gangnam style'.

Cullen Paterson, Brandon Ulich, Kaidi Bishop and Taylor Wallace have secured a finalist position in the eInstruction Classroom Makeover Contest and they need the community to vote for them to win first place, said Heather Delle Monache, a communications teacher at the school.

Their video submission is the only one in eastern Canada to be in the finals of this inter-

national competition.

If they receive enough votes, they have a chance to win the grand prize, \$20,000 in science classroom improvements from eInstruction, an education software and technology company.

It was at the beginning of October when Delle Monache approached some of her students with an idea to design and shoot a video for the international contest which sees hundreds of participants submitting parody videos.

With Ulich and Paterson as co-directors, Wallace was brought on to write the music and choreograph the dancing while Wallace helped to write the story and act in a parody

video of the popular Gangnam Style, a song made famous by South Korean singer PSY.

The song, as rewritten by Wallace, express a need the school has for new equipment in the science department.

The students spent three weeks writing and shooting the video in their spare time and finished well before the Oct. 26 deadline with the help of 40 students. The video was shot over a three-day period after the song was written, the choreography was decided and story completed.

"We shot the video on all of our spaces and we missed a few classes for it. Once it was finished, me and Brandon did all of the editing in a week,"

Paterson said.

After the video was edited, students reshot some scenes and production of the video was wrapped up.

"I didn't think it would turn out as well as it did," he said about the finished video.

With the video completed, the students are asking the community to vote for them to take the top spot in the Grade 9 to 12 category.

Voting for the competition concludes on Dec. 7 and the winners will be announced on Dec. 11.

To view the video and vote visit online at <http://flipy-ourclassroom.einstruction.com>.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



PelhamNEWS photo
From left, co-directors Brandon Ulich and Cullen Paterson, with lead actor and writer Taylor Wallace and choreographer Kaidi Bishop, strike Gangnam-style poses to promote their parody video.

■ HAMPERS

Organization also looking for new toys, non-perishable food

FROM PAGE 1

"We usually fill about 60 hampers by the time Christmas comes and they go to single moms, to families and people who are struggling."

But the program needs the support of the community to help those in need.

"We're looking for ham, turkey and all of the trimmings for a Christmas dinner that people would need."

Donations for Christmas

Hampers will be accepted at Pelham Cares, 124 Hwy. 20 West from Mondays to Fridays between 9 a.m. and noon.

Brown said the organization is also looking for donations of new toys, and gifts for teens, moms and dads as well as stocking stuffers.

Toys will also be collected at Pelham Fire Station One on Dec. 8 to 16. For more information about Pelham Care's hamper program call

905-892-5300.

The Fonthill Volunteer Firefighter's Association will also be accepting donations of new toys, gifts warm blankets and pet food from Monday Dec. 7 to Friday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. as well as Saturday, Dec. 12 and Sunday Dec. 13 from noon to 4 p.m.

During the holiday season, and throughout the rest of the year, the organizations and what they do to provide

assistance to people in-need are important, said Stefani Katiculic-Ducharme, family and community program coordinator at Port Cares.

"Christmas is a difficult time for some people and finances are tight. What Port Cares and the community does helps a family that needs it."

She said Port Cares is also collecting donations of new toys for children as well as new items for parents and

their care takers and non-perishable items for the food bank. The deadline to donate items is Dec. 14 so these gifts can be placed under Christmas trees just in the nick of time.

Anyone who wants more information on the program can contact Katiculic-Ducharme at 905-834-3629 ext. 278.

In Welland, donations and registrations are now being accepted for the Christmas

Hamper Program—a joint effort between the Hope Centre, the Salvation Army and St. Vincent De Paul.

Those interested in donating can call 905-735-5700 and anyone who wishes to register for the program can visit the Salvation Army on Division St. Registration is open Mondays and Tuesdays before Dec. 11. For more information call 905-788-0744 ext. 238.

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■ **EXHIBITION:** Put on by Pelham Village Artists

Looking at local art

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — People don't have to go far for quality art anymore. It's found locally all over Niagara.

On Saturday, Pelham's Village Artists held an exhibition at Fonthill United Church on Church Hill.

A steady stream of people saw seven artists work from landscape photography to mixed media art on wood from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Organizer Beverly Sneath, who also showed her water-colour paintings, painted crystal wine glasses and handmade earrings, said the show was great exposure.

"I love meeting local people who have an interest in art, and I also love the chance to spend time with other artists," she said.

The show started as a studio tour but because there



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photos

Divino Mucciante, top photo, showed off his paintings at the Village Artists exhibition at Fonthill United Church and made Amaretto almond biscotti to sell for Pelham Cares with the functions social tea. Photo at left, show organizer Beverly Sneath shows off some of her painted crystal wine glasses, grape wine earrings and watercolours.

is a studio tour in the spring Sneath decided a show may work better and she hopes to make it an annual event.

There was also a tea social in support of Pelham Cares. Volunteers said they hoped to make about \$250 for the charity.

Divino Mucciante showed his photography at the exhibition, but he also made

Amaretto almond biscotti with Reese's Pieces to sell for Pelham Cares that were a hit.

Michelle Malaschenko brought her daughter Carly, a budding artist, to the exhibit to spend time with her and help her learn more about art.

"She's already taken a bunch of pictures of things she wants to go home and

practise," she said.

She also said it was a nice way to show people how beautiful the community is.

"Most of these artists are local and they are presenting local scenes," she said. "We don't have to go too far to see beauty."

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca
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perspective

No hiding from Hyde Park worries

In the early 1980s, the Love Canal neighbourhood in Niagara Falls, N.Y., became the environmental bogeyman for residents on both sides of the Niagara River and millions who relied on Lake Ontario drinking water.

Described as one of the most appalling environmental tragedies in 21,000 years of toxic chemicals.

It would take 21 years and \$400 million to clean up the mess which resulted in the creation of the Superfund National Priorities List, a fund dedicated to the most hazardous toxic waste sites.

The Love Canal is now one of three Superfund sites in Niagara County, N.Y. that have been de-listed. Three remain and Niagara regional chair Gary Burroughs is pursuing completion of a letter asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency not to scratch the Hooker-Hyde Park chemical waste site from the list. The site, located near the Robert Moses Hydroelectric Power Station in Niagara Falls, N.Y., contains 80,000 tons of waste, including dioxins and volatile organic compounds.

While the EPA argues the chemicals are contained, Burroughs feels there's still a danger of toxins reaching the Niagara River. He's worried if the site is taken off the list it won't be treated as severely.

The EPA says no decision has been made and if the site is de-listed, inspections are done every five years to ensure needed inspection gets done. If there's problems, the agency makes sure they're fixed. A big problem can see the site put back onto the Superfund list.

Ontario Environment Minister Jim Bradley feels inspections aren't enough, especially when Hyde Park chemicals are still being found in a creek that leaches into the Niagara River and Lake Ontario. Bradley wrote the EPA urging it to go back until there's no longer any contamination going into the river from the Hyde Park site.

Hopefully politicians on both sides of the border will continue their lobbying efforts to ensure the Hyde Park trouble spot remains on the Superfund National Priorities List until there's not a single drop of contaminants making its way into the water supplies of millions on both sides of Lake Ontario. Given the problems increase in severe weather caused by global warming, the risk of extreme rainfalls overwhelming containment facilities is something that can't be discounted. We should learn from our mistakes and be over-cautious when dealing with these atrocious man-made mistakes.

Bernie Puchalski

■ COLUMN

Free Trade twenty five years later

Friends, allies, and trading partners, Canada and the U.S. enjoy a longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship.

Our two countries have been at peace since the conclusion of the War of 1812, enjoy the longest undefended border in the world, cooperate on cross border law enforcement, and even share continental air defence through the North American Air Defense Command.

The good relations enjoyed between our two countries can be attributed to several things: shared civilization, language, and common-law tradition; shared beliefs about government and society; and a long history of trade.

Perhaps the most significant milestone in that history of trade is the negotiation of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement, twenty five years ago.

Free trade as a model for



FROM THE HILL

economic relations with the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was so contentious that Brian Mulroney decided to call an election in 1988 to put the matter to the voters. The Progressive Conservatives supported free trade, while the Liberals and NDP opposed it. Even today the NDP opposes steps to increase free trade with the U.S., and continues to support protectionist policies. The PCs were re-elected in 1988, and the Free Trade Agreement was signed into law.

Since the FTA, and the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, we traded with Mexico, two-way trade in goods and services with the U.S. has

more than tripled, our annual GDP has risen by \$1.1 Trillion, and nearly 4.6 million jobs have been created in Canada. Our current government, and our predecessors, can rightly take pride in this record of growth. We also plan to continue supporting and proposing job and growth creating measures, such as trade agreements with other Pacific Rim countries.

Our government continues to participate in international trade organizations for the benefit of Canadians, but also knowing that free trade provides opportunity and economic development around the world. As Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development in the House of Commons, I am continually reminded that free trade and free markets are among the most effective drivers of economic growth in developing countries.

Globalization and international free trade does involve some adjustments, as

countries with comparative advantages attract workers in those fields, but I have every confidence that Canadians can adapt and remain competitive on the world market.

I believe that free trade is beneficial for Canadians generally, and for Niagara West-Glanbrook specifically. With exporters like nurseries, parts manufacturers, tender fruit farms and orchards, and world famous wineries throughout the Niagara region, we stand to benefit from elimination of trade barriers and the opening of new markets. Residents of Niagara know first hand the value of continued economic relations with the United States, since many of us travel to New York state for business or leisure, and since many Americans likewise travel here.

Summing up, the last twenty five years of free trade with the United States have been a great success for Canada, and I look forward to the next.

■ letters

Business women thank for breast cancer awareness event

On behalf of the local business-women who hosted the breast cancer awareness event for the Girls at the Café on Main on Oct. 24, we would like to thank the following people.

A big thank you to all those who attended this sold out event, bidding on silent auction items, enjoying pink drinks and fine food, as well as learning more about women's health.

Thank you to the local businesses and residents who donated door prizes, silent auction items, swag bag items, and offered their time to help on the evening of the event. Ann Mountain, Wellspring Niagara, Bluff, ELLE Jewellery, Oh La La Designs, Berkhout-Bosse

Realty Inc., Darla Pina Healing and Wellness, Pillow Art Designs, Greg Holmes, musician, Len Doyle, Sun Life Financial, Sylvia and Jayne Brittenbach and Krista Strifani. A special thank you to our surprise guest server Mayor Dave Augustyn.

Because of your contributions we were able to raise \$2440.00 for Wellspring Niagara, supporting people in the Niagara community living with cancer.

Sincerely,

Patti Fagan, Café on Main; Laurie-Ann Whitnall, Thermography Clinic Niagara; Mercedes Siebert, Sadie's Lingerie; Dr. Carrie Rogers, Fonthill Naturopathic Clinic; Allison Kares/ Movement Unlimited Inc.; Tanara Steele, Sapphires Jewellers; Candy Ashbee, Presentations Corp.; Chelsea Cook and Jenna Bissonnette, Designer Delights; Karen Gemmel, certified yoga teacher

■ SERVICE OF HOPE



PELHAMNEWS PHOTO

The Pelham Clergy Fellowship, along with the James L. Pedlar and Pelham funeral homes, are hosting the annual Service of Hope and candlelight service for people who have lost a loved one. The service will be held on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., at Kirk on the Hill Presbyterian Church. Participating clergy include, from left, Rev. Dr. Garry Van Bruchem of Fonthill United Church, Rev. Dr. Diane Walker of Pelham Community Church, Rev. Alan MacLean of Fenwick Walker Church, Rev. George Schmidt of Pelham Community Church and Tina Moessner and Devin King of James L. Pedlar Funeral Home and Debbie Mikolasek of Lampman Funeral Home.

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IN BRIEF

ANNUAL BAZAAR

WELAND — The Woodlands of Sunset is holding it's annual bazaar and penny sale this weekend.

The event at the 920 Pelham St. retirement home takes place Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. It includes a bake sale, white elephant table, and tea room. Admission is free. All money raised will be used for the comfort of residents of the home.

TEACHERS' DEAL OK'D

The province has given the OK to a tentative contract agreement reached Nov. 19 between secondary school teachers and the District School Board of Niagara.

That agreement, along with other agreements at three Ontario boards, were referred to Education Minister Laurel Broten to determine if they met the parameters of the Putting Students First Act.

In a release Thursday, the education minister said the tentative agreements fell within the "substantively identical test" under the Act.

Those agreements still require approval from their respective memberships with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation before the province can officially approve them.



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■ COLLISION

Man injured in snowmobile crash

WELLANDPORT — A 63-year-old man was taken to hospital and treated for an upper arm injury after he crashed a snowmobile he was riding into a tree and a barbed wire fence, mid-afternoon, Wednesday, Nov. 21.

Police were alerted to the collision that occurred about

2 p.m. on East Chippawa Rd. and arrived on scene at 2:35 p.m., Niagara Regional Police spokesman Const. Derek Watson said.

The man, whose name has not been released to the police, was conscious when he was transported to hospital by ambulance, Watson said.

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and will be graciously accepted, and distributed locally by the Open Arms Mission.

■ **PELHAM:** Food drive next Saturday

Support local food banks

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

It's once again time to begin gathering non-perishable donations for the Pelham Community Food Drive.

The yearly food drive, held on Saturday, Dec. 1 this year, is one of the biggest fundraisers that benefits Pelham Cares, said Betty Brown, client services coordinator.

"The donations from the community food drive last year right into the summer of following year when we start to put another call out to people for help," she said about the success of the event. "By the time Christmas comes, we start to run low on a few items."

The generosity of the community during the food drive and throughout the rest of the year always amazes her and she is thankful for the continued support Pelham Cares receives from the community each year. "Whenever our cupboards start to get low, food just seems to show up."

Some of the donations will also go to Hope Centre and Salvation Army in Welland.

Beginning at 9:30 a.m., crews

will spread out from Fonthill and Fenwick Lions halls and will pick up non-perishable food on porches and front doors that are left by residents until 1 p.m., said co-organizer Gerry Berkhout.

Residents living in rural areas and others who are unable to donate, are able to drop off items after the food drive at Century 21 Today Realty, Meridian Credit Union, North Pelham Avondale, Clare's Cycle and Sports and Star Tile Centre. The Pelham Cares office will extend their hours and accept donations between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Berkhout has been a part of the community food drive for more than 20 years, and each

year about 250 volunteers come together to collect donations.

"We've probably collected over 100 tons of food since I've been doing this," he said.

Berkhout has a motto that he shares with volunteers who take part every year which expresses how important the food drive is.

"Do something for someone who may not be as fortunate as you," he said. "It's certainly a good

way to start the holiday season."

A list of items that the Pelham Cares food bank are in need of, including dry groceries, canned fruit, tea, instant coffee, and canned meat, can be found by visiting www.pelhamcares.org. Those interested in volunteering can call Berkhout at 905-892-6988.

sarah.ferguson@summedia.ca



PELHAMNEWS PHOTO

Gerry Berkhout will be out and about posting signs for the door-to-door Pelham Community Food Drive on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., in support of Pelham Cares.

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■ SUMMERFEST: Pelham looking into committee terms of reference

Staff not needed, councillor says

SARAH FERGUSON
 PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — A terms of reference for the Summerfest committee will get a second glance before it is ratified by a council vote.

Members of the policy and priorities committee meeting reviewed staff recommendations for next year's Summerfest committee two weeks ago. The recommendations including adding a town staff member acting as a chair of the committee and five staff representatives — one from the recreation, culture and wellness departments and one from finance, public works and facilities.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi was concerned about having representatives from town staff on the committee and how it would be perceived by the volunteers who organize the event.

"We want to be careful that volunteers don't feel like the town is taking over community events,"

He said a committee consisting of six town staff members was not necessary. Instead, the Ward 2 councillor said one councillor was enough to act as a liaison between the volunteer committee and staff.

son between the volunteer committee and staff.

Ward 1 Coun. Larry Clark agreed with Accursi that the committee didn't need more than one council representative.

"We've had two very successful events. If you change the chemistry, you're going to get a very different effect," he said.

Mayor David Augustyn said he saw both sides of the argument and the terms of reference should be directed to town staff for "problem solving."

"Does the terms of reference meet the vision of the event? Should a councillor be involved?," he asked. "I'm not sure," he said.

"We're moving further apart rather than together. This is an extremely valuable discussion and I think we need to take the time it deserves," Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak said.

He added that staff feel there is a need to have town personnel on the committee that needs to be addressed and volunteers who organize the Summerfest need to be consulted. A report will be brought before council at a later date.

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■ **PELHAM:** New report expected

Lot sizes reduced in proposed subdivision

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

PELHAM — A proposed 122 single-detached dwellings subdivision along Lookout St. in northwest Fonthill will be put back on the discussion table during the next committee-of-the-whole meeting on Dec. 3.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said four residents who live behind the subdivision were concerned about the density size of the development. In a four to three vote, councillors agreed to reduce the number of lot sizes to lots 81 to 87 of the project to include four lots rather than seven during a committee-of-the-whole meeting on Nov. 5.

In response to this decision, Mark Basciano, of Costiano Developments, who owns the development, asked council to allow him to go ahead with his development without decreasing lot sizes during a council meeting two weeks ago.

The mayor said the development has received a draft approval "with very low density," however, Basciano, has come forward with a new plan with a higher density.

Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp said he felt the issue needs "further consideration" and asked if council could be evaluated at the next council meeting.

Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak said there could be some difficulty on the part of the developer to sell smaller lots but he believes a compromise can be made between the developer and residents in terms of how many homes are built.

"I believe there is some common ground to be met," he said. "Seven is too many and four is two few."

Papp agreed with Rybiak that a compromise could be made and said the best way to address the residents' concerns is to speak with the developer.

"I don't want this to become a back-and-forth situation," Papp said about the development.

Council directed town staff to speak with Basciano about the development and return a report to councillors on Dec. 3.

sarah.ferguson@sunmedia.ca



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■ **ENERGY:** Niagara group gets an earful in visit to Blenheim

Strong opinions on wind turbines

DON FRASER
QMI Agency Niagara

For West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner, it was a wind-power trip walk-about that drove home the issue's

divisiveness.

Last week, Wednesday, he and four West Lincoln aldermen and senior staff stopped by Blenheim, in Chatham-Kent. The tour was organized by Niagara Region Wind Corp.

to show off existing wind turbines in that area.

At Blenheim, Joyner and others met with people at the newspaper, barbershop, realtor and others. Joyner said they wanted honest reflections

on what locals thought of the turbines installed in their municipality.

"And they were all over the map," Joyner said.

"There are a lot of fears out there, but I'd say 50% of the people were just

as happy to have industrial wind turbines in the Chatham-Kent area.

"It didn't come across anybody that didn't have an opinion," he said. "In my own municipality, people are all over the map ... and people in West Lincoln that don't want industrial turbines are very passionate."

The NRCW wants to install 77 wind turbines in West Lincoln, Wainfleet and Haldimand County. The project is still in the public meeting phase.

Transmission lines would also be linked to the provincial grid through Lincoln and Grimsby.

These provincial wind initiatives — including Niagara's 230 megawatt project — are governed by the province's Green Energy Act, meaning affected municipalities don't have a say in approving the turbines.

It's a situation Joyner and some local politicians complain has stripped them of their right to make a local decision.

Joyner said the more information everyone has about this kind of power generation, the better.

"By all means, (the trip) was worthwhile," he said. "We've always maintained we need to educate ourselves about the whole industrial wind turbine situation and the Green Energy Act."

The trip also included a turbine tour and a luncheon with industrial-wind-power advocate and Chatham-Kent Mayor Randy Hope.

"We threw a million questions at him," Joyner said. "And we asked him hard questions ... we weren't letting him off the hook."

Randi Rahamim, a spokeswoman for the Niagara Region Wind Corp., deemed the trip a success.

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to help educate and give people real information about what they might experience," she said.

The turbines, which Rahamim said would be up to 124 metres in height, could be in place and operational by mid-2014.

don.fraser@sunmedia.ca

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WHO WHAT WHEN why?

What
An industrial wind-turbine information trip to Chatham-Kent Wednesday organized by Niagara Region Wind Corp.

Who
West Lincoln Mayor Doug Joyner, aldermen and some municipal staff.

Why
Fact-finding included taking to locals in Blenheim. Joyner said citizens the group spoke to were "all over the map" in their feelings about the wind energy controversy.

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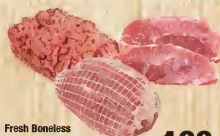
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Very rarely does a day go by where there isn't a question about constipation from a patient stopping by the pharmacy. Most patients want to know what they should take that is available without a prescription.

Constipation is a symptom that occurs when waste moves too slowly through the body, resulting in stool that is dry and hard. This often makes it difficult and painful to pass. Some medications such as antidepressants, water pills, and certain pain killers (such as Oxycontin and Codeine) may cause constipation.

The frequency of bowel movements varies from person to person, from as little as twice a week to a couple of times a day, and is affected by diet, medications, and exercise.

If you are having trouble going to the washroom, the first thing a pharmacist will usually recommend is increasing the amount of fibre in the diet by eating whole grains, fruits and vegetables. In addition, drinking at least 8 glasses of water will minimize constipation.

If these suggestions do not work, there are several options available to you.

For short-term treatment of constipation, (if you haven't been to the washroom in several days), a saline laxative such as Milk of Magnesia can be tried. Alternatively glycerin suppositories work quite well. If symptoms still do not resolve you could consider an enema with the advice of your physician.

Stimulant laxatives such as Dulcolax and Senokot can also be used to maintain regularity. If you are on long term narcotic therapy you may need to take these types of medications as long as you are taking the narcotics.

For long-term treatment of constipation, bulk-forming agents such as Metamucil or Prodiem Plain can be used. These bulk-forming agents increase the stool weight, allowing the stool to pass through the body faster and cause more frequent bowel movements. These agents typically take about 12-72 hours to take effect and are usually safe to use for long periods of time. When taking bulk-forming agents, it is recommended to drink lots of fluid.

For young children there are a few options. For immediate relief a pediatric glycerin suppository can be tried. For chronic long term management PEG 3350 is often prescribed, or is available over-the-counter as LAX-A-Day. You should consult your family doctor however if you want to try an oral medication for a child suffering from chronic constipation.

If you are not having trouble going to the washroom, but you find the stool to be too hard and painful to pass, the pharmacist may recommend a stool softener such as Colace (docusate sodium) that will soften the stool for increased comfort.

Before deciding on a therapy, talk to a pharmacist and they can help you decide on a treatment that is right for you.

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Museum is important to local communities

PELHAM — Welland Historical Museum is an important part of both Welland and Pelham communities, according to Carol Sernaisle.

The member of the board of management for the museum spoke to town council during last week's meeting to give an update about the services the museum offers.

"The museum is an integral part of Welland and Pelham's tapestry and provides critical services to

our citizens which are not available elsewhere," she said.

Sernaisle said the museum is recognized by residents and tourists as a "must-see destination" that has welcomed 4,233 visitors from Niagara, the U.S., Europe, England and Hong Kong over the last year.

She added the number of visitors is comparable to the 4,377 people who visited Niagara Historical Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Each summer the museum hires university and college students. The positions are funded by the museum and the federal government, she said.

Sernaisle also informed councillors about the museum's exhibits including the Interactive First World War, Second World War, Korean War and the History of the Metis exhibits as well as programs offered such as the Mad Science and Birds of Prey programs.

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■ **CULTURAL ASSETS:** Promoting what Pelham has to offer

Creating a cultural plan

SARAH FERGUSON
PelhamNews Staff

Mayor Dave Augustyn is thankful for an interim report which moves the Town of Pelham one step further to developing a cultural master plan.

The mayor, along with fellow councillors, listened to an update about the cultural plan from Jonathan Hack of Sierra Planning and Management, who was retained by the town to develop it, during a council meeting two weeks ago.

The goal of the report is to create a framework for cultural investment in Pelham by identifying what the town has in place as well as define and develop its cultural assets and make recommendations for supports to ensure effective implementation of the plan, Hack said.

The plan is meant to leave the town

with a database of cultural sites that can be managed and updated by the town, when possible as well as "promote and have the maximum benefit of culture" in Pelham, Hack told councillors.

Through an online survey and public meetings, Hack said the Fonthill Bandshell, Comfort Maple Tree and Pelham's Farmer's Market are a few of the town's most important cultural assets.

He added that the interim report also identified there needs to be more cultural ethnicity in terms of downtown stores and restaurants, better marketing of cultural activities, a space for youth programs and room for artists.

"The final report is expected to be completed by March 2013," Hack said.

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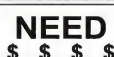
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DATEBOOK

**THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 29
CLASSIC BOOK
CLUB**

at the Wainfleet Township Public Library from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Join us for afternoon tea as we discuss works of classic literature. This month's selection is *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton. To obtain a copy of the book, please register as a club member.

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 1**

CHRISTMAS TEA

At All Saints Anglican Church, Forks Road, Dain City, annual Christmas Tea from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; featuring a penny sale, fresh baked goodies, Christmas basket and food basket draws and a refreshment room. All are welcome.



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**CHRISTMAS
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At Glad tidings Church of god, 1 Pancake Lane, Fonthill. Tea and bazaar, from 1-4 p.m. Non-perishable donations will be collected at the Pelham Community Food Drive at Pelham Corners, Hwy. 20 E., Fonthill. For more information call 905-892-5300

**JAMAICAN
CHICKEN MEAL**
 hosted by the Pelham Evangelical Friends

Church, 940 Haist St., Fonthill, in support of the Jamaica Chicken Project fundraiser. The event runs from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Silent auction, antiques, baking, art, gift baskets, beef on a bun, chicken meal.

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 2
FONTHILL UNITED
CHURCH**
 is hosting a community inter-church celebration of Advent with guest readers and choir at 2

p.m., 42 Church Hill, between Hwy. 20 and Canboro Rd. There will also be lessons, carols and cookies.

**TUESDAY
DECEMBER 4
HOLIDAY
CUPCAKES**

Beginners can learn how to decorate cupcakes from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event for free and everyone is welcome to attend. Please register ahead of time at the Pelham Library, Fonthill branch.



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